



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
FAMILY LIFE

TO: Pastors/Administrators
FROM: Theodore J. Musco, Director
RE: IMPORTANT PARISH INITIATIVE Safe Haven Sunday (Covenant Eyes)
DATE: January 15, 2023



What is Safe Haven Sunday?

Inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) formal statement, *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*, **Safe Haven Sunday, celebrated here in the Archdiocese of New York on the weekend of Sunday, March 12, 2023**, is a weekend set aside by (arch)dioceses and parishes to directly address the societal harms of pornography. This may be done either by individual parishes, parish collaboratives, deaneries, or pastoral regions. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you.

Also, the **Safe Haven Sunday Year 1** Parish Implementation Guides are now updated. You can request those here: <https://www.covenanteyes.com/safe-haven-sunday/catholic-resources/>. Please use this link to share with your parish leaders as well.

Within the context of the Mass, parishes can provide teaching and resources that will support and protect individuals, marriages, and families in making all homes a safe haven. We urge each parish to make these resources available to your parishioners who are struggling with many challenges. All the materials come at no cost to you except for the purchase of the book for Year 1 which is \$3.00 per book.

IMPORTANT: The Office of Family Life has purchased a few hundred books in English and Spanish that can be provided to parishes who have a particular need for these resources but may not have budgeted for this purpose. Please contact Ted Musco by January 30th at Theodore.Musco@archny.org to request copies for your parish participants. However, if you would like a Green option go <https://learn.covenanteyes.com/equipped-shs/>. The Spanish version is available at <https://www.covenanteyes.com/resources/equipped-parenting/>

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Bulletin and Social Media blurbs follow (please adjust or translate according to your parish situation):

Weekend Prior to Safe Haven Sunday: Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children

The family home is to be a safe haven. But the inappropriate use of technology in the home deprives it of this role and is the greatest threat to the sanctity of marriages and families today. Pornography and other online threats are often one click away, and parents can feel overwhelmed with not knowing how to best protect their children in our fast-paced digital world. Next weekend, [insert dates], [insert name of diocese or church] is taking a bold step to help families by celebrating Safe Haven Sunday. This awareness day will provide access to practical resources that any caring adult can use to protect themselves and our young people from online risks. Please join us with your prayers and presence as we prepare for this unique event. To learn more, please contact [insert contact information] or visit [insert website].

Weekend of Safe Haven Sunday: Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children

[Insert name of diocese or church] is setting aside this weekend, [insert dates], as Safe Haven Sunday in order to give focused time and resources to address the harmfulness of pornography and other online threats to marriages, family life and culture. Today's awareness day is celebrated through prayer and a reflection within the context of the Mass. After Mass, each individual and family will be given Covenant Eyes' book, *Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture*. This book includes a unique seven-day text-to-opt-in program: The Safe Digital Family Challenge. This Challenge provides practical tips any caring adult can take to create safer digital environments for themselves and our young people. Thank you for celebrating with us! If you have any questions about this awareness weekend, please contact [insert contact information] or visit [insert website].

SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY: THANK YOU!

Our Safe Haven Sunday was a big success! [Insert name of diocese or church] extends a tremendous "Thank You!" to all who made Safe Haven Sunday possible and to all parishioners for their support of the education and awareness on the issues of pornography at our Sunday celebration. Again, thanks to our parish community for your openness to the topics of internet safety and the dignity of the human person considering the pornographic culture. Just because Safe Haven Sunday is over for this year, it doesn't mean our efforts to make our homes safe havens is over. Stay informed at [insert website] and learn more about how to protect and guide your family and friends.

For additional parish resources for Year One, go to

<https://www.covenanteyes.com/resources/parish-resources-year-1/>

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